GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1188
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2003
CUSTODIAL DEATH
IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission has pointed out that the number of deaths in police custody in the year 2002 has increased enormously as compared to 2000 and 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of custodial deaths during 2002; and

(d) the steps the Government propose to take to check the custodial deaths in 2003?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSO PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK)

(a)&(b): The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has reported that there were 176 deaths in police custody during the year 2002 whereas there were 170 deaths in 2001 and 133 deaths in 2000.

(c): During the year 2002, there were a total of 1338 custodial deaths (i.e. 176 in police custody and 1162 deaths in judicial custody).

(d): Law and Order is a State subject. However, NHRC has on various occasions, directed the concerned authorities, in appropriate cases, to take necessary steps to curb the occurrence of custodial deaths and also for improving the conditions in jails. NHRC has also issued instructions for streamlining the procedure for reporting custodial deaths to avoid any delay in sending the post-mortem and Magisterial Inquiry Reports alongwith their videography to the Commission within the prescribed time limit.